



A Publication of the  
Judicial Council of Georgia

## Judges & Journalists Swap Roles in Workshop

This wasn't your usual courtroom scenario: A three-judge panel sat for a routine sentencing hearing. Neither the lawyers or judges were as confident as those in attendance might expect. An audience full of "eager reporters" hastily scribbled notes as the hearing proceeded. Two moderators helped move the proceedings along when the hearing slowed down.

NOT your typical sentencing hearing, this was a role-reversal exercise which placed real journalists playing the parts of judge, attorney, defendant, or

witness. Those "attentive reporters" in the crowd were judges.

The Reynolds National Center for Courts and Media and the Supreme Court of Georgia sponsored the one-day workshop bring-

ing together judges and journalists on October 4, 2006, at the State Bar



AJC reporter Bill Rankin pleads the case in front of a three-judge panel.

Building in Atlanta. Judge Terry Ruckreigle, Chief Judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit, Breckenridge, Colorado, and Mr. Mark Curriden, journalist/lawyer, acted as moderators

for the workshop.

A number of Georgia judges and journalists were invited to participate in the one-day workshop to promote an exchange of ideas and



Judge Jack Partain, Conasauga Judicial Circuit, and Chief Judge Doris Down, Atlanta Judicial Circuit, write their accounts of court proceedings.

discussion about the role of the courts and the role of the media in covering the courts.

During 2006, similar workshops were held in Alaska, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, Guam, and the Virgin

Islands.

Ms. Billie Bolton, AOC Assistant Director for Communications, was the local coordinator for the event. ♪

See page 5 for list of workshop participants.

## State of the Judiciary: "Solid, Sound, and Stable"

— Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears

*"The people of Georgia seem to cherish the wisdom of separation of powers. And they have shown time and again that they also believe that a sense of fairness, justice, and impartiality must be woven into the fabric of everyone who would call themselves a judge.*

*It is fundamental.*

*It is compelling.*

*It is not negotiable.*

*And it is nonpartisan."*

See "State of Judiciary" pg 4

## INSIDE

- People, Places & Events pg 2
- State of Judiciary pg 4
- South American Visitors pg 5
- Election Results pg 6
- Gov. Perdue Swears in Appointments pg 7
- Spotlight: Supreme Court Commissions/Committees pg 8
- Directory Corrections pg 10

# People, Places and Events ...

## *In Memoriam*

✱ **Chief Judge Herbert E. Kernaghan**, Juvenile Courts, Augusta Judicial Circuit, died on November 13, 2006, of a heart attack. Judge Kernaghan had served in the US Army and earned his law degree from Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law.

✱ **Judge Emeritus James Edward Slaton** of Augusta died on November 21, 2006. Judge Slaton served as judge of the State Court of Richmond County from 1979 to 1984.

Judge Slaton enlisted in the Army in 1939, serving during World War II and the Korean Conflict. After 32 years, he retired with the rank of Brigadier General. He earned his JD from Augusta Law School and was a graduate of the National Judicial College.

✱ **Former Judge John Sammons Bell** of Fernandina Beach, Florida, died on December 8, 2006. In 1960, Judge Bell was appointed to the Court of Appeals of Georgia by Gov. Ernest Vandiver, serving as Chief Judge from 1969 until his retirement in 1979.



Judge John Sammons Bell

Judge Bell was a Major in the US Army during World War II, earning both a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. He earned his law degree

from Emory University after returning from action in the Pacific Theater.

✱ **Former Judge Robin Nash** of Decatur died suddenly January 11, 2007. Judge Nash was appointed to the Juvenile Court of DeKalb County in 1995 and retired in 2005 after serving as Chief Presiding Judge. He was a graduate of Emory University School of Law and, at the time of his death, served as director of the Barton Child Law & Policy Clinic at Emory.



✱ **Former Supreme Court Justice Jesse Bowles** of Cuthbert died on January 28, 2007. Justice Bowles was appointed to the court in 1977 and resigned in 1982 to enter private practice. He retired in 2002 after 56 years of practice.

## *Appointments*

✱ On January 2, 2007, **Judge Tommy J. Smith** was sworn-in as State Court Judge of Toombs County by Gov. Sonny Perdue. Judge Smith fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Malcolm Bryant.

✱ The US Senate voted January 30, 2007, to confirm the nomination of US Attorney **Lisa Godbey Wood** as judge of the US District Court, Southern District of Georgia. Judge Wood fills the vacancy created by the retirement of **Judge Dudley H. Bowen, Jr.** who assumed senior status after 25 years on the bench.

✱ On January 19, 2007, **Judge Benjamin Allen, Judge Pamela S. James, Judge Jennifer S. McKinzie, and Judge Willie Saunders** were appointed to the Juvenile Court of the Augusta Judicial Circuit by that circuit's superior court judges. The death of Chief Judge Herbert Kernaghan led to these appointments.

✱ On January 25, 2006, **Judge Anthony Baker** was appointed to the Juvenile Court of the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit. The full-time position became vacant when **Judge Ellen McElyea** was appointed to the Superior Court.

✱ See page 6 for recent election results.

## *Resignation*

✱ **Judge Albert E. "Gene" Wells**, Probate Court of McDuffie County, stepped down from the bench citing health concerns. **Chief Clerk Valerie Burley** has assumed the duties as Probate Judge.

## People, Places and Events ... cont.

### *Court of Appeals Centennial*

✱ **The Court of Appeals of Georgia** celebrated its centennial anniversary on October 6, 2006.

A crowd of nearly one thousand attended the event held at the Georgia

Aquarium in Atlanta. **Judge**

**William R. Wilson, Jr.**, US District Court, Eastern District of Arkansas, was the featured speaker at the event.



### *Awards*

✱ **Judge Melodie Clayton**, State Court of Cobb County, received the **Ogden Doremus Award** presented by the Council of State Court Judges on October 12, 2006, in Jekyll Island, Georgia. Judge Clayton has served on the Cobb County Bench since her election in 1992.



Judge Melodie Clayton

✱ On November 15, 2006, **Judge Betty Cason**, Probate Court of Carroll County, received the **Outstanding Constitutional Officer of the Year Award**. The award was presented in Savannah at the annual meeting of the Constitutional Officers Association of Georgia.

✱ On January 23, 2007, **Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears**, Supreme Court of Georgia, was honored by the State Bar of Georgia Women and Minorities in the Profession Committee with its **2007**

#### **Commitment to Equality Award.**

This award recognizes the efforts of lawyers and legal employees who are committed to providing opportunities that foster a more diverse legal profession for women and lawyers of color.

✱ **Senior Judge Marvin H. Shoob**, US District Court, Northern District of Georgia, was awarded the **Weltner Freedom of Information Award** on January 27, 2007 by the Georgia First Amendment Foundation.

✱ **Justice Robert Benham**, Supreme Court of Georgia, has been named a 2007 Notable Georgian by Georgia Trend Magazine.

### *From the Clerk of the Supreme Court...*

✱ The Supreme Court now has wireless Internet connectivity in the Clerk's office, lawyers lounge, and Judicial Conference Room. The network is called Jban (Judicial branch appellate network). The public access portion of the network is called JbanPublic. There is no security protocol to attach to the public access network.

### *From the Clerk of the Court of Appeals...*

✱ As of October 26, 2006, the offices of the Clerk of the Court of Appeals have a new location. The new address is Suite 501, 47 Trinity Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30334. The new mailing address should be used for all correspondence to the judges of the Court of Appeals. Phone numbers for the Clerk's office and judges' offices remain the same.

### *Judge Miller Attends World Court Seminar*

✱ **Judge M. Yvette Miller**, Court of Appeals of Georgia, was among 20 judges from the United States who participated in the Sir Richard May Seminar on International Law and International Courts in The Hague, Netherlands.



Judge M. Yvette Miller

The seminar, held on September 23-30, 2006, was conducted at the Peace Palace, home of the International Court of Justice (commonly known as the "World Court")

### *Speaking Engagement*

✱ **Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears** will deliver the Thirteenth Annual Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. Lecture on State Courts and Social Justice at New York University Law School on February 22, 2007. ☺



## State of the Judiciary: "Solid, Sound, and Stable"

Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears delivered her second State of the Judiciary Address on January 24, 2007 before a joint session of the Georgia General Assembly. Justices of the Supreme Court and judges of the Court of Appeals, granted entrance on the floor of the special session, were greeted with a round of applause from the assembled Senators and Representatives.

### *Solid, Sound, and Stable*

The Chief Justice began her message by noting, "the state of the judicial branch of government in Georgia remains solid, sound, and stable."

She touched on many issues facing the judiciary including: drugs, violence, and family. Courts have

responded by creating programs which strive to alleviate such problems. She pointed out that the development of accountability courts, business courts, drug courts, etc., have helped to ensure access to civil justice for all in today's society.

### *Drug Courts*

Mr. Rodney Hewatt, a successful participant in Judge George Kreeger's Cobb County Adult Drug Treatment Program, attended the event as an example of the positive impact of drug courts for individual Georgians.

### *Children, Marriage & Family*

In addition to speciality courts, Chief Justice Sears called attention to the work of the Supreme Court Committee on Civil Justice which is working on ways to close the legal services gap in the state.

The Chief Justice gave special emphasis to the importance of the newly-created Commission on Children, Marriage, and Family Law. Justice Sears noted that the troubling toll on children created by the rising divorce rate in the state is of great concern to the state's trial court judges. "Inadequate resources and a lack of expertise often hamper even the best efforts on the part of judges to address Georgia's domestic relations case problems."

The Chief Justice told the legislators: "We can and must do everything we can to strengthen our families because it is the best way we have to facilitate responsibility, ensure equality, and shape self-governing citizens who may never need to see the inside of a court of law."

The full text of the Chief Justice's remarks can be found at [www.gasupreme.us](http://www.gasupreme.us) ☞



Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears delivers the State of the Judiciary Address.

## "School Tool" Poster Popular with Judges and Educators

Welcome to Georgia's Court System" is

a hot item among judges and educators. The first printing of 5,000 copies was quickly exhausted, and a second printing has been run. All told, nearly 12,000 copies of the poster have been distributed to judges, court officials,

middle schools, high schools, and an Atlanta-area technical university.



### *Comments*

#### From Judges:

#### From Judges:

• What a wonderful tool to take to school presentations! Thanks!

• Thank you for supplying us with posters. We appreciate you supporting teachers, students & GA education.

• Great posters — simple — pertinent — well executed.

• Great idea! Long time coming!

• Very nice! These will be a great addition to my GA History classes.

Copies are still available. To find out more information, contact Ms. Ashley Stollar at 404-656-6783 or e-mail [stollara@gaaoc.us](mailto:stollara@gaaoc.us) ☞

# South American Visitors

**J**udges, lawyers, clerks, and court administrators from the Brazilian state of Pernambuco spent two weeks in Georgia studying judicial administration through a program conducted by the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education.

On December 1, 2006, the Brazilian contingent, as well as one judge from neighboring Guyana, toured the offices of the Administrative Office of the Courts in Atlanta. Mr. David Ratley, AOC Director, discussed the history of Georgia's judicial branch and the formation of the agency.



Members of the Brazilian judiciary met with court administrators and judges during their two weeks in Georgia.

Presentations were given outlining each division's function within the AOC and the day-to-day work employees accomplish for judges, administrators, and the public.

The Brazilian judges also met with representatives of the state's appellate courts during their time in Atlanta.



Pernambuco (in green) is home to nearly 8 million people and was founded in 1620 by Portugal.

A Question and Answer session was conducted with members of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals including, Justice Harris Hines, Supreme Court of Georgia; Chief Judge John H. Ruffin, Jr., and



Chief Justice Fausto Valenca de Freitas, Supreme Court of Pernambuco, (far right) presented gifts of appreciation to Ms. Tee Barnes, Mr. Bill Martin, Justice Harris Hines, Presiding Judge JD Smith, and Chief Judge John H. Ruffin, Jr. (not pictured).

Presiding Judge J.D. Smith, Court of Appeals of Georgia; Ms. Tee Barnes, Supreme Court Clerk; and Mr. William H. Martin, Court of Appeals Clerk and Court Administrator.

The Institute of Continuing Judicial Education hosts international groups several times a year with its Judicial Administration program. For more information, contact Mr. Rich Reaves, ICJE Director, at 706-542-5150. ☎

## Judges & Journalists Workshop

### Judicial Attendees:

Those in attendance included: **Chief Judge Anne Elizabeth Barnes** and **Judge Herbert Phipps**, Court of Appeals of Georgia; **Chief Judge Doris Downs** and **Judge Constance Russell**, Atlanta Judicial Circuit; **Judge Jack Partain**, Conasauga Judicial Circuit; **Judge C.J. Becker**, Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit; **Judge Joe Iannazzone**, State Court of Gwinnett County; **Judge Jeannette Little**, State Court of Troup County; **Judge Peggy Walker**, Juvenile Court, Douglas Judicial Circuit; **Judge Tom Rawlings**, Juvenile Court, Middle Judicial Circuit; **Mr. Rick Diguette**, Public Information Officer, Supreme Court of Georgia; **Ms. Billie Bolton**, AOC Assistant Director for Communications.

### Media Attendees:

**Mr. Bill Rankin** and **Mr. Bill Torpy**, Atlanta Journal-Constitution; **Ms. Alexis Scott**, Atlanta Daily World; **Ms. Alyson Palmer**, Fulton Daily Report; **Ms. Sandy Hodson**, Augusta Chronicle; **Mr. Bret Bell**, Savannah Morning News; **Ms. Liz Jarvis Fabian**, Macon Telegraph; **Mr. Mike Gellatly**, Rome News-Tribune; and **Mr. Walter Jones**, Morris News Service; **Ms. Katie Woods**, Attorney.

## Superior Court Retirements

### *Longest-serving Superior Court Judges Retire*

With a combined 79 years of judicial experience between them, the state's two longest serving superior court judges retired on December 31, 2006.

**Chief Judge Walter C. McMillan, Jr.**, was appointed to the Middle Circuit by Gov. Carl E. Sanders on December 8, 1966.

Augusta Circuit **Chief Judge William M. Fleming, Jr.**, was appointed by Gov. Lester Maddox on May 8, 1968.

Judge McMillan and Judge Fleming have assumed senior status.

### *Other Retirements:*

• **Chief Judge Tommy Day Wilcox**, Macon Circuit, was appointed October 15, 1981, by Gov. George Busbee. Assumed senior status.

• **Chief Judge William H. Craig**, Flint Circuit, who was elected to office January 1, 1983, has assumed senior status.

• **Chief Judge Hugh Stone**, Enotah Circuit, was appointed on August 10, 1992, by Gov. Zell Miller. Assumed senior status.

• **Judge Albert Rahn, III**, Atlantic Circuit, took office January 1, 1995 after running for election. Assumed senior status.

• **Chief Judge Steve Boswell**, Clayton Judicial Circuit, was elected and took office January 1, 2003. He has entered private practice.

### *New Chief Judges*

The following judges became Chief Judges on January 1, 2007:

**Judge Carlisle Overstreet**,  
Augusta Circuit;

**Judge Matthew O. Simmons**,  
Clayton Circuit;

**Judge S. Lark Ingram**,  
Cobb Circuit;

**Judge David E. Barrett**,  
Enotah Circuit;

**Judge Arch McGarity**,  
Flint Circuit;

**Judge Bryant Culpepper**,  
Macon Circuit;

**Judge Kathy Palmer**,  
Middle Circuit. ⚖️

## AG Opinion

### OFFICIAL OPINION

**Sale of real estate images in possession of the clerks of superior court prohibited.**

The Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority is not empowered to contract to sell real estate images that are in its possession that are records of the clerks of superior court.

(10/16/06 2006-5)

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## 2006 Judicial Election Results

*The following superior and state court judges were elected to four-year terms. They took office January 1, 2007.*

### *Superior Court*

**Judge D. Jay Stewart**  
Atlantic Judicial Circuit;

**Judge J. David Roper**  
Augusta Judicial Circuit;

**Judge Geronda V. Carter**  
Clayton Judicial Circuit;

**Judge Lynn Alderman**  
Enotah Judicial Circuit;

**Judge Brian Amero**  
Flint Judicial Circuit;

**Judge Tilman E. "Tripp" Self**  
Macon Judicial Circuit;

**Judge Bobby Reeves**  
Middle Judicial Circuit;

**Judge Bill Reinhardt**  
Tifton Judicial Circuit.

### *State Court*

**Judge Carlton Vines**  
State Court of Chattooga County;

**Judge Hugh McCullough**  
State Court of Tattnall County.



# Gov. Perdue Swears-in New Appointees

On January 2, 2007, and January 4, 2007, Gov. Sonny Perdue administered the oath of office to new judges.



Judge Jack Kirby, Coweta Judicial Circuit



Judge Katherine Lumsden, Houston Judicial Circuit



Judge Tommy J. Smith,  
State Court of Toombs County



Judge Ellen McElyea,  
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit



Judge Ken Vinson, Paulding Judicial Circuit



Judge John Doran, Jr., State Court of Gwinnett County

## Spotlight: Supreme Court Commissions & Committees

### Access and Fairness Committee Sponsors "Color of Justice" Program

Fifteen students from Atlanta's D.M. Therrell High School magnet program gathered on a Saturday morning recently to learn about legal careers. The Color of Justice program, sponsored by the National Association of Woman Judges, was hosted locally by the law firm of Powell, Goldstein, LLP, and the Georgia Committee on Access and Fairness in the Courts (GCAFC).

The four-hour session, held at Georgia State University College of Law,

featured minority judges, lawyers, and court administrators relating their individual journeys in pursuit of legal careers. Sessions such as Law as a Career: Preparing the Way; Color of Justice: A Panel Discussion; and Getting Real with the Bench and Bar were offered. Later students and panelists gathered for an informal lunch and further discussion.



Therrell High School students listen to panelists discuss the pursuit of a legal career.



Panelists (l - r) Judge James Bass; Judge R. Joy Walker; Judge Nelly F. Withers; former Judge Nina Radakovich; and Judge Al Wong. Ms. Stephanie Chambliss (background) acted as moderator.

Judges who participated included: Judge Alford Dempsey, Atlanta Judicial Circuit; Judge James Bass, Eastern Judicial Circuit; Judge Al Wong, State Court of DeKalb County; Chief Judge R. Joy

Walker and Judge Nelly F. Withers, Recorder's Court of DeKalb County; Judge Berryll Anderson, Magistrate Court of DeKalb County; and former Atlanta City Court Judge Nina Radakovich.

In April 2007, a Color of Justice program will be held in Albany with four area high schools invited to participate. For more information about the Color of Justice program, contact Ms. Silvia Gaines, GCAFC Program Manager, at 404-463-3927.

#### Other GCAFC News

**Ms. Stephanie Chambliss**, formerly GCAFC Program Manager, has accepted the position of Assistant Director for Regulatory Services with the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Presiding Justice Carol W. Hunstein, GCAFC Chair, recently named **Ms. Silvia Gaines** as the new Program Manager. ⚖️

### Commission on Marriage, Children, and Family Law

The Chief Justice's Commission on Marriage, Children, and Family Law held its first meeting on December 11, 2006. In attendance were judges, lawyers, civic leaders, members of the business community and public.

The Commission will function through two committees: the Advisory Committee on Healthy Families, and the Committee on Justice for Children (formerly the Child Placement Project).

The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for March 16 in Atlanta. ⚖️

### Save the Date

**June 12, 2007**

**Judicial Council Meeting**  
**Jekyll Island Club Hotel**

*For more information call*  
**Ms. Terry Cobb at 404-656-5171.**



## Spotlight: Supreme Court Commissions & Committees

### Jury Composition Committee

The Jury Composition Committee of the Supreme Court of

Georgia met on January 26, 2007 in Atlanta to hear a report on the work of Applied Research Services, Inc. The committee has contracted with ARS to conduct a Jury Source List Validation project. Funding for the project is primarily through a grant from the Georgia Civil Justice Foundation.

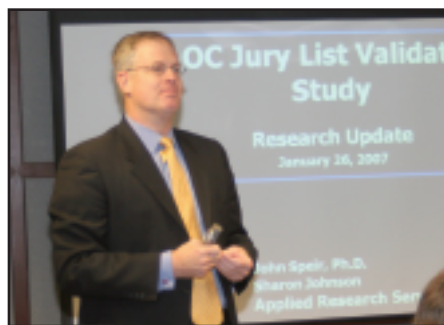
The Committee, created by the Supreme Court of Georgia in 2003 and currently chaired by Justice Hugh Thompson, is seeking a defen-



Justice Hugh Thompson chairs the Jury Composition Committee

sible methodology for compiling jury lists to replace the “balanced box” method now in use. State law requires jury lists to be updated every two years. This allows for outdated information to remain (deceased persons, those who have moved away) and does not account for movement into a jurisdiction or those newly-eligible for jury service.

Dr. John C. Speir, principal researcher, described his methodology in analyzing data obtained from the Department of Driver



Dr. John C. Speir, principal researcher for Applied Research Services, Inc., describes his methodology in the Jury Source List Validation project.

Services and voter registration lists for a five county sample of the state. The five counties represented rural, suburban, and urban areas. Dr. Speir will make a more comprehensive report to the committee at its next meeting on June 8, 2007.

New members joining the committee for the January meeting

included: Ms. Patricia Baker, Cherokee County Superior Court Clerk; Ms. Sara L. Crow, Lowndes County Superior Court Clerk; Ms. Linda T. Miller, Clayton County Superior Court Clerk; and Ms. Billie Bolton, AOC Assistant Director. ☞

### AOC News

✱ On January 1, 2007, **Ms. Yolanda Lewis** became the AOC's Assistant Director for Judicial Liaison. She previously worked with the Research Section of the AOC.

✱ On December 1, 2006, **Mr. Kevin Tolmich** was promoted to Assistant Director for Planning in the Planning and Research Division. Mr. Tolmich previously held the position of Budget Officer and has been succeeded by **Mr. Mark Seymour**.

### Commission Conducts Training Seminars for New Child Support Guidelines

When the new Child Support Guidelines went into effect on January 1, 2007, a judge or attorney using the new Child Support Services' calculator had probably already been trained thanks to the Child Support Commission.

From mid-September until December, Ms. Jill Radwin, Staff Attorney of the Child Support Commission, conducted 40 seminars, training approximately 725 judges, judicial staff, attorneys, and mediators across Georgia.

Many of the trainings were held at local technical colleges and larger courthouses where computer labs were available for hands-on learning.

On October 14, 2006, a training, was held at Griffin Tech which included participation of 190 attorneys. Judge Chris Edwards, Griffin Judicial Circuit, was instrumental in facilitating this event.

For more information regarding training opportunities, please contact Ms. Jill Radwin at 404-463-1849. ☞

# Courts Directory Corrections

*\*Newly elected or appointed judges.*

## **SUPERIOR COURT**

### Atlantic Circuit

Judge D. Jay Stewart\*  
PO Box 280  
Reidsville, GA 30453  
478-537-6393  
(formerly Solicitor-General)

### Augusta Circuit

Judge J. David Roper\*  
530 Greene Street, Suite 312  
Augusta, GA 30911  
706-821-2359

### Blue Ridge

Judge Ellen McElyea\*  
90 North Street, Suite 260  
Canton, GA 30114  
678-493-6240/F 493-6244  
emcelyea@cherokeega.com  
(formerly Juvenile Court)

### Clayton Circuit

Geronda V. Carter\*  
Harold R. Banke Justice Center  
9151 Tara Boulevard  
Jonesboro, GA 30236

### Coweta Circuit

Judge Jack Kirby\*  
Coweta Justice Center  
72 Greenville Street  
Newnan, GA 30263  
770-253-8175

### Dublin Circuit

Chief Judge H. Gibbs Flanders  
478-272-0061/F 275-9180

### Enotah Circuit

Chief Judge David E. Barrett  
114 Courthouse Street, Box 2  
Blairsville, GA 30512  
706-439-6100/F 439-6099  
debarrett55@yahoo.com

Judge Lynn Alderman\*  
59 S. Main Street, Suite K  
Cleveland, GA 30528-4501  
706-865-6135/F 865-2682  
(formerly Juvenile Court)

### Flint Circuit

Judge Brian Amero\*  
Superior Court, Flint Judicial Circuit  
One Courthouse Square  
McDonough, GA 30253

### Houston Circuit

Judge Katherine Lumsden\*  
201 N. Perry Parkway  
Perry, GA 31069

### Macon Circuit

Judge Tilman E. "Tripp" Self\*  
308 Bibb County Courthouse  
Macon, GA 31201

### Middle Circuit

Judge Bobby Reeves\*  
PO Box 1347  
Swainsboro, GA 304041  
478-237-6191

### Paulding Circuit

Judge Ken Vinson\*  
11 Courthouse Square, Room 207  
Dallas, GA 30132  
678-363-3905/F 363-3907

### Piedmont Circuit

Judge Joseph H. Booth  
706-387-6392

### Tifton Circuit

Judge William Reinhardt\*  
PO Box 806  
Tifton, GA 31793  
229-386-7906

Delete: Judge Rusty Simpson

## **STATE COURT**

### Chattooga County

Add: Judge Carlton Vines\*  
State Court of Chattooga County  
P.O. Box 408  
Summerville, GA 30747

Delete: Judge Samuel Finster

### Effingham County

Judge Ronald K. Thompson  
rkthompson@effinghamcounty.org

### Gwinnett County

Judge John F. Doran\*  
Gwinnett Justice &  
Administration Center  
75 Langley Drive  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045-6935

### Henry County

Judge Ernest D. Blount  
770-288-7377/F 288-7687

Judge James T. Chafin, III  
770-288-7367/F 288-7688

Judge Ben Studdard, III  
770-288-7356/F 288-7686

### Tattnall County

Add: Judge Hugh J. McCullough\*  
State Court of Tattnall County  
406 North Caswell Street  
P.O. Box 39  
Glennville, GA 30427

Delete: Judge B. Daniel Dubberly

### Toombs County

Add: Judge Tommy J. Smith\*  
404 Durden Street  
Vidalia, GA 30474  
912-537-3030

Delete: Judge Malcolm F. Bryant, Jr.

## **JUVENILE COURT**

### Augusta Circuit

Add: Judge Benjamin Allen  
1127 Laney-Walker Boulevard  
Augusta, GA 30901  
706-724-7023/F 722-2095

Add: Judge Pamela S. James  
PO Box 1547  
Augusta, GA 30903-1547  
706-722-2014/F 722-7552

Add: Judge Jennifer S. McKinzie  
2820 Hillcreek Drive, Suite A  
Augusta, GA 30909  
706-650-2100/F 650-2331

# Courts Directory Corrections

## JUVENILE COURT

### Augusta Circuit cont.

Add: Judge Willie Saunders  
411 Telfair Street  
Augusta, GA 30901  
706-828-7808/F 722-8599

## PROBATE COURT

### Clayton County

Judge Pam Ferguson  
pam.ferguson@co.clayton.ga.us

## MAGISTRATE COURT

### Catoosa County

Judge Donald Ray Caldwell  
Judge Michael Alan Helton  
Judge Anthony E. Peters  
Judge Raymond Victor Wells, III

877 LaFayette Street  
Ringgold, GA 30736

### Columbia County

Add: Judge Connie Holloway  
640 Ronald Reagan Drive  
PO Box 777  
Evans, GA 30809  
706-868-3316/F 868-3314

Judge Doug Nelson  
PO Box 777  
Evans, GA 30809  
706-833-1296

Delete: Judge William C. Leopard  
Judge Jack Farmer

### DeKalb County

Add: Judge Tracy Dorfman  
807 DeKalb County Courthouse  
556 N. McDonough Street  
Decatur, GA 30030

### Fulton County

Judge Divida Gude  
100 Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 2165  
Atlanta, GA 30303

Judge George O. Lawson, Jr.  
970 MLK, Jr., Drive, SW, Suite 202  
Atlanta, GA 30314  
404-522-6964

Judge Barry Zimmerman  
6376 Spalding Drive  
Norcross, GA 30092

### Habersham County

Delete: Judge James Jarrell

### Heard County

Add: Fritz Joh  
Chief Magistrate

Delete: Judge Donna J. Burnham

### Liberty County

Judge Amy L. Owens  
PO Box 912  
Hinesville, GA 31310-0912  
912-368-2063

### Randolph County

Add: Judge Deanna DuVall McDonald  
RR 1, Box 274-A  
Cuthbert, GA 39840  
229-732-6182/F 732-5635

Delete: Judge Melba Beard

### Union County

Add: Judge Teresa A. Collins  
114 Courthouse Street, Suite 10  
Blairsville, GA 30512  
706-439-6008/F 439-6104

### White County

Add: Judge Garrison Baker  
59 S. Main Street, Suite B  
Cleveland, GA 30528  
706-865-4141/F 865-7738

Delete: Judge Stephanie Jenkins Hulsey

### Whitfield County

Judge Barrett W. Whittemore  
Judge Sidney D. Baxter  
Judge Kaye Cope  
Judge Haynes Henton Townsend

205 N. Selvidge Street, Suite E  
Dalton, GA 30722

## MUNICIPAL COURT

### Alpharetta

Judge Barry Zimmerman  
6376 Spalding Drive  
Norcross, GA 30092

### Atlanta

Judge Crystal Gaines  
FAX 404-954-8108

### Austell

Delete: Judge Pro Tem. Robert L.  
Whatley  
(move to Powder Springs)

### Chatsworth

Judge Ron Wilson  
706-695-9667/F 517-9770

### Darien

Judge Samuel G. Oliver  
PO Box 495  
Darien, GA 30315  
912-437-4090/F 437-2171  
sgolaw@darientel.net

### Dasher

Judge David Sandbach, Jr.  
3686 US Hwy 41 S.  
Dasher, GA 31601  
229-559-3146/F 559-3147  
sandlaw@surfsouth.com

### Jackson

Add: Judge Wilson Bush  
PO Box 1155  
Jackson, GA 30233  
770-775-5377/F 775-1545

Delete: Judge W. Franklin Freeman

### McDonough

Judge Gregory A. Futch  
Judge Kenneth A. Glenn

40 Atlanta Street  
McDonough, GA 30253

### Peachtree City

Add: Judge Stephen D. Ott  
380 Stonewall Avenue, W.  
Fayetteville, GA 30214  
770-692-2600

## SUPERIOR COURT CLERK

### DeKalb County

Linda Carter  
404-371-2836/F 371-2635

## SOLICITOR GENERAL

### Effingham County

A. Mark Lee  
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# New Chief Judge Ushers in Second Century of Court of Appeals of Georgia

**T**he Honorable Anne Elizabeth Barnes took the oath of office to become Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Georgia on January 4, 2007.

Chief Judge Barnes was introduced by attorney Charles Adams of Fort Valley. Justice Robert Benham administered the oath of office. Speakers at the event included Chief Judge John H. Ruffin, Jr. and Judge M. Yvette Miller of the Court of Appeals, and former Supreme Court Chief Justice Norman S. Fletcher. Judge Herbert Phipps delivered the invocation. Justices of the Supreme Court and judges of the Court of Appeals were present for the cere-

mony, along with many judges from the DeKalb County area, Judge Barnes' family and friends.



**Justice Robert Benham, left, administers the oath of office to Chief Judge Barnes who is joined by her husband W. Fred Orr II.**

Chief Judge Barnes is only the second woman to serve as Chief

Judge in the court's 100 year history. In 1998, she became the first woman to be elected in a statewide judicial race without having first been appointed to the bench. Prior to her election, she practiced law in Atlanta and Savannah. A DeKalb County native, she attended Georgia State University and University of Georgia School of Law. ♫



*LEAH WARD SEARS*  
Chief Justice  
*DAVID L. RATLEY*  
Director  
*COURTS JOURNAL STAFF*  
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